



Higher Education Recruitment and Retention Opportunities H.E.R.R.O.

Volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services agencies (EMS) are requested daily to respond to a wide variety of emergencies here in Rockland County. These agencies consist of 100% volunteers who dedicate their time to serve their communities. EMS agencies respond annually to over 40,000 calls per year and fire departments respond to over 9000 call per year. These first responders' agencies are currently experiencing a critical need to recruit and retain members.

As an incentive for county residents to serve at volunteer fire departments and EMS agencies the County of Rockland has developed a program of recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer first responder agencies. The program is designed to provide college tuition reimbursement to volunteers for their dedicated service within the community.

In exchange for the fulfillment of established service requirements in a volunteer fire department, volunteer fire company, volunteer fire district or volunteer EMS agency located within the County of Rockland, volunteers enrolled as full-time or part-time students are eligible for tuition reimbursement on a grade point average (GPA) of "C" or better (2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale). To be eligible for student loan reimbursement, the volunteer must be an active member of the volunteer agency for at least one full year.

There are no restrictions as to the type of academic coursework the volunteer may choose to pursue.

The H.E.R.R.O. program will be administered by the Office of Fire and Emergency Services. Volunteers are eligible for up to \$6000.00 annually in tuition reimbursement. To be eligible, a H.E.R.R.O applicant must be an active member of a volunteer fire department, volunteer fire company, volunteer fire district or volunteer EMS agency for one year. Volunteers must maintain an acceptable volunteer activity and training level as set forth by the County of Rockland during their entire course study.